

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History

History 417

Professor M.B. Petrovich

HISTORY OF RUSSIA
- Information Sheet (September, 1986)

I. Course Description. "History 417. Semester. 3 or 4 credits. Origins and evolution of the Russian people and state; political, economic, and social history; foreign relations as they affect domestic policy; from the ninth century to 1800." Graduate students may take the course for three credits only.

II. Prerequisites. This course is open to Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate students. Freshmen, including those in the Honors Program, will not be admitted for credit. Students who have been identified on the official Class Roster as Freshmen, including Transfer Students, will be disqualified unless they bring proof from some appropriate office of the University that they are in fact above the Freshman level.

III. Course Requirements. All students, regardless of classification or the number of credits they are carrying, will have their final grades based on at least the following equally weighted factors:

1. Six Weeks Examination;
2. Twelve Weeks Examination;
3. Final Examination, first hour (covering material since the Twelve Weeks Examination;
4. Final Examination, second hour (covering the entire course);
5. Analytical 4- to 6-page review of Avrich book Russian Rebels 1600-1800;
6. Analytical 4- to 6-page review of Raeff book Peter the Great Changes Russia.

NOTE: Especially in borderline cases, a student's final grade may be raised or lowered on the basis of the student's attendance and work in the 4th-hour discussion sessions.

IV. Examinations. The Six Weeks Examination, Twelve Weeks Examination, and first hour of the Final Examination will consist entirely of questions taken from Study Guide sheets that will be handed out to the class periodically, usually one for each week. Each examination, like the Study Guides, will consist of two sections: (1) Identifications (30% of grade), and (2) Essays (70% of grade). The first hour of the final examination will cover only the material since the Twelve Weeks Examination. The second hour of the final examination will consist of one out of three or four broad questions covering certain aspects of the entire course. These questions will be chosen by the instructor from a special Study Guide that will be handed out to the class well before the study period for final examinations.

V. Book Reviews. Each student will be required to write two analytical reviews of 4 to 6 pages each (typed, double-spaced, with customary margins) based on assigned paperback books. Each paper will take up one broad question out of several that will provide an opportunity to incorporate material from the entire book. These questions will be distributed at least a month in advance of the due date. Papers which fail to meet college-level standards of grammar, spelling and punctuation will not be accepted for grading but will be returned to the writers for revision. Students who need help in these matters are

reminded that there is a Writing Laboratory in 6171 Helen C. White Hall (Telephone: 263-3820).

VI. Required Textbooks. All students taking the course for 3 or 4 credits will be required to read the following works:

David MacKenzie and Michael W. Curran. A History of Russia and the Soviet Union (Homewood, Ill.: Dorsey Press, 1977 or later edition)

Paul Avrich, Russian Rebels 1600-1800 (New York: W.W. Norton, 1972), paperback edition, 1976 or later edition.

Marc Raeff, editor, Peter the Great Changes Russia, 2nd edition (Heath, 1972 or later edition).

Sad experience prompts the warning that students should obtain the required textbooks now, even though not all will be read in the beginning of the semester. The problem is that the bookstores generally return unsold textbooks to publishers very soon after the beginning of the semester. Students are also cautioned against relying on the Library for copies.

VII. Requirement for a Fourth Credit. Undergraduates wishing to earn an extra credit are to attend a regular fourth-hour section meeting every Monday, at a time and place to be determined after the first class meeting, to present weekly one-page typed reading reports, based on about 100 pages of reading a week, which will briefly describe and evaluate their outside reading. The reports will normally consist of two paragraphs, the first consisting of a description of what was read and relevant information about the author, and the second containing comments and an evaluation. The reports will be typewritten on special forms which will be supplied to each student. Each report will be dated and numbered. The reports will be due each Monday (except the first) for the preceding week, as follows: (1) Sept. 15; (2) Sept. 22; (3) Sept. 29; (4) Oct. 6; (5) Oct. 13; (6) Oct. 20; (7) Oct. 27; (8) Nov. 3; (9) Nov. 10; (10) Nov. 17; (11) Nov. 24; (12) Dec. 8. Note that there will be no report required on December 1, because of the Thanksgiving Recess, and thus no section meeting will be held on that date.

Students are encouraged to read journal articles as well as books. It is appropriate that on occasion a single report should cover several different articles or chapters as long as an average of 100 pages per week is maintained. Students must not devote more than three reports to sections of the same book, regardless of the book's length, but should strive for breadth and variety of authors, subjects and viewpoints. Students will gear their readings to the chronology of the course and should, whenever possible, choose their outside reading selections from the end-of-chapter bibliographies in their textbook. They are welcome to consult with the instructor concerning their choice of reading material.

VIII. Graduate Students will meet the basic requirements listed in Section III plus the requirements for weekly reading reports described in Section VII.

IX. Attendance All students are expected to attend all class meetings regularly, especially since the lectures will cover much material that is not in the textbooks. Poor attendance will affect the final grade adversely. This applies to fourth-hour section meetings as well.

X. Auditors are welcome. Those wishing auditor credit are required only to submit a note to the instructor at the time of the last class meeting indicating that they have attended the lectures with reasonable regularity.

XI. Honors Students. This semester students may not take the course for Honors inasmuch as Professor Petrovich is offering a separate Honors Seminar (History 481).

XII. Office Hours. Professor Petrovich's office is in 5102 Humanities. His mailbox is also on the fifth floor of Humanities, opposite the elevator on the State Street side, and you may leave messages for him there. His telephone number is (26)3-1838. You are requested not to call him at home. His office hours are the following:

Monday	11 a.m.	- noon
Wednesday	11 a.m.	- 11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.
Friday	11 a.m.	- noon

and by appointment

XIII. Some Requests. The following reminders will be unnecessary for the vast majority of students; nevertheless, experience has taught us to make clear the following from the start:

1. Please come on time. If you must come late, enter unobtrusively and sit as close to the door as possible so as not to disturb others.

2. If you must leave before the end of the lecture, and you know this in advance, please sit as close to the door as possible and leave as unobtrusively as possible. It is also a matter of courtesy to let the lecturer know in advance so that he does not have to worry that you have been taken ill.

3. There will be no eating, drinking, or smoking in the classroom at any time. It is also a courtesy to others not to put your feet on seats around you.

XIV. Policy on Late Papers and Make-Up Examinations. The dates on which the two short papers are due will be announced one month in advance. They will be spaced to fit the chronology of the course. Especially since students will have a month for each short paper, they would do well to hand in their papers ahead of the deadline and thus avoid possible lastminute emergencies such as typing problems, illness, etc.

Late papers will not be accepted without a valid written explanation such as a medical excuse. Similarly students will not be given make-up examinations without such a valid written explanation. Make-up examinations will not be given prior to the announced time of an examination except with the consent of the Dean.

XV. Back-Up Copies of papers. The instructor will assume that students will retain copies of all papers which they submit as insurance against lost or misplaced papers.